

Bangladesh Country Coordinating Mechanism (BCCM)

Health Services Division

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

BCCM Secretariat

SITE VISIT REPORT

Date of Report: 12 June 2018

Date of visit: 04 & 05 June 2018

Place of visit:

1. Save The Children Bangladesh Office for HIV project, Gulshan-2, Dhaka
2. National Malaria Elimination Program Office, Mohakhali DOHS, Dhaka

Names of the members in the visiting team:

- Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman Khan, Additional Secretary (PH&WH), Health Services Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW) & Chair BCCM Oversight Committee
- Prof. Dr. Mahmudur Rahman, PhD, Former Director, IEDCR and Vice Chair, BCCM Oversight Committee
- Prof. Dr. M. A. Faiz, Former DG, DGHS and Vice Chair, BCCM
- Dr. Md. Motaher Hossain, Deputy Secretary, Health Services Division, MOHFW
- Dr. Tasnim Azim, Independent HIV Expert and Member, BCCM Oversight Committee
- Dr. Saima Khan, Country Manager, UNAIDS Bangladesh and Member BCCM Oversight Committee
- Mr. Zahedul Islam, Country Project Director, MSH/SAIPS and Member, BCCM Oversight Committee
- Dr. Milon Kanti Datta, Presidium Member, BHBCOP and Member, BCCM Oversight Committee
- Dr. A. Mannan Bangali, Former NPO, WHO and Member, BCCM Oversight Committee
- Mr. Manaj Kumar Biswas, BCCM Coordinator, BCCM Secretariat
- Mr. Mohammad Harun-Or-Rasid, Deputy Coordinator, BCCM Secretariat

Persons contacted:

- Dr. Lima Rahman, Chief of Party, HIV/AIDS Program - Health, Nutrition & HIV/AIDS Sector, Save The Children Bangladesh
- Prof. Dr. Sanya Tahmina, Director CDC & LD NMEP, DGHS
- Dr. M. M. Aktaruzzaman, DPM, NMEP, DGHS

Purpose of the site visit:

BCCM oversight visit aimed to:

- Review grant compliance by principal recipients,
- Recommend improvements in implementation, as applicable,
- Identify issues requiring further coordination and higher-level attention, and
- Propose resolution of issues to the CCM

Background:

The visit of BCCM Oversight Committee to Save The Children Bangladesh (PR-HIV) and National Malaria Elimination Program (NMEP) Offices was triggered by the annual oversight visit plan 2018. As per plan, Oversight Committee members intends to review the Grant implementation status under The Global Fund grant. Mr. Manaj Kumar Biswas, BCCM Coordinator raised the issue to Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman Khan, Additional Secretary (PH&WH), Health Service Division, MOHFW and Chair BCCM Oversight Committee. The Chair decided to conduct an oversight visit to Save The Children Bangladesh and National Malaria Elimination Program grant management and implementation unit.

Sites visited:

The Oversight Visit Team visited PRs' (SCI and NMEP) offices and performed review of programmatic, finance and procurement related issues under the Global Fund grants for 2018-2020 period.

Observation/Findings:

PR-HIV: Save The Children Bangladesh

To facilitate review of issues the Oversight Visit Team requested PR to make a presentation on their activities and achievements. Dr. Lima Rahman, Chief of Party, HIV/AIDS Program, Save the Children Bangladesh presented (copy attached) overall activities, success and challenges of current HIV grants.

The presentation was followed by discussions. PR team responded to questions by the visit team members and provided additional information. The visitors, therefore, used the findings from the presentation and discussions between the visit team members and PR team to formulate their findings and recommendations.

- a) **Program Management:** Save the Children has been receiving GFATM Grants from Round 2, since 2004. Currently, they are implementing New Funding Request 2018-2020. SC is working for two KP, one is Female Sex Worker (FSW) and another is People Who Inject Drug (PWID). They provide prevention and treatment support to the beneficiaries. In addition to these, they also work for RSSH.

Coverage of FWS under the current HIV program is very poor. Estimated number of FSW in Bangladesh is 102,260 where 65% coverage is targeted by the National Strategic Plan (NSP). Current HIV grant of Save The Children covers 18,500 FSW in addition to the targeted 13,600 from NASP. Thus, total coverage counts 48% of targeted population and 31% of estimated population. The coverage of Save the Children program has been decreased (39% to 28%) due to the funding ceiling.

Coverage of PWID under the current HIV program is also below expectation. Estimated number of PWID in Bangladesh is 33,067 where 75% coverage is targeted by the NSP. Current HIV grant of Save The Children covers 9,000 PWID in addition to the targeted coverage of 10,000 from NASP. Thus, total coverage counts 76.6% of targeted population and 57.5% of estimated population. The coverage of Save the Children program has been decreased (47% to 41%) due to the funding ceiling.

Save The Children has been operating 29 DICs for FSW in 14 districts though SR (Light house) and SSRs (Nari Mukti Sangha and Sylhet Jubo Academy) and Direct Implementation. For PWID, 21 DICs are being operated by the PR-Direct Implementation, SR (Care Bangladesh) and SSRs (Mukto

Akash Bangladesh and APOSH) in 7 districts. Factors considered to select these priority districts includes concentration of beneficiaries, number of HIV positive reported cases, geographic vulnerability etc.

Service package of the PR includes distribution of commodities e.g. condom, needle/syringe etc., health education through interpersonal communication, HIV testing, referral for STI and other diseases, ART treatment linkage & follow-up etc. Most of the services are delivered at the outreach. DICs plays the role of first referral and management unit of the services.

- b) **Grant implementation and Expenditures:** Current grant implementation has started on 01 December 2017 and continue till 30 November 2020. Save The Children have managed to achieved A1 rating since 2013 and more than 90% expenditure rate. However, first quarter of current grant could not achieve 90% of expenditure as payment to the suppliers was done after the quarter and grant agreement with CARE Bangladesh was delayed. But it will be adjusted in the upcoming quarters.
- c) **Vacancy of Key Staff and Recruitment Process:** As the current grant is the continuation of previous services, the program continued key staff resulting zero turnover in the management level positions. However, in case of turnover, recruitment is done according to the HR policy of Save The Children.
- d) **Procurement:** Save the Children has been managed advance procurement from the saving of the previous grants (NFM) to maximize resources utilization and uninterrupted continuation of services. During this new grant, procurement has been done within the first quarter while payment has been done in the second quarter of the grant.
- e) **Disbursement of Fund:** Upon receipt fund from The Global Fund, Save the Children disburse funds to the SRs and SRs disburses fund to the SSRs on quarterly basis as applicable. Since 2017, Care Bangladesh, Light House and AAS has received 73%, 81% and 93% of their budget respectively.

Challenges: Main challenge of the current grant is to ensure effective coverage for key population. Services could be ensured in the limited coverage areas. Moreover, currently reaching PWID at outreach spots has become challenging, thus HIV prevention activities such as needle-syringe distribution, ART enrollment and adherence, OST new enrollment and HIV testing are becoming difficult to implement.

PR-Malaria: National Malaria Elimination Program

To facilitate review of issues the Oversight Visit Team requested PR to make a presentation on their activities and achievements. Dr. Moshiquar Rahman, Epidemiologist, National Malaria Elimination Program presented overall activities, success and challenges of current Malaria grants.

The presentation was followed by discussions. PR team responded to questions by the visit team members and provided additional information. The visitors, therefore, used the findings from the presentation and discussions between the visit team members and PR team to formulate their findings and recommendations.

- f) **Program Management:** Malaria is endemic in 13 districts of the country. Among these 13 districts, 3 are high endemic, 2 are moderate endemic and rest 8 are low endemic. With the success of National Malaria Control Program in recent years, National Malaria Program is now aiming phase wise

elimination of malaria from Bangladesh with the vision of malaria free Bangladesh by 2030 (8 district by 2021, 3 districts by 2025 and rest by 2030).

Malaria program ensures diagnosis and treatment facilities to the target population. They also distribute LLIN for prevention and conducts BCC activities for improved care seeking behavior and effective use of LLIN. Referral linkage between community worker to tertiary level hospital has been established to ensure necessary treatment for the patients.

During 2018, malaria has significantly reduced to 1,261 cases (56% of 2017) and 1 death in first four months. This was possible by early drive to control malaria at all level.

- g) Grant implementation and Expenditures:** Current grant implementation has started on 01 January 2018 and will continue till 31 December 2020. NMEP has no SRs but they have planned to pay for the post of National Professional Officer of WHO. Major cost of NMEP budget under The Global Fund includes procurement of LLIN, Pharmaceuticals etc. NMEP has been receiving A1 rating from The Global Fund in NFM.
- h) Vacancy of Key Staff and Recruitment Process:** Finance Consultant has recently resigned from his post and three SMO has recently been approved for GF financing. The recruitment of Finance Consultant is in progress, circulated vacancy announcement, completed short listing. Test would be called after EID vacation and recruitment will be done shortly. This grant included salary of one position NPO of WHO Bangladesh which is to be done with WHO. But till visit date no arrangement was possible to ensure utilization of this fund.
- i) Procurement:** NMEP has procured 3,00,000 LLIN for FDMN as Cox's Bazar is malaria prone area. The LLIN has also been distributed among target beneficiaries. Other commodities stock is as required and also procurement for upcoming days is in progress.
- j) Disbursement of Fund:** During the first quarter of the NMEP has received USD 458,582. Since NMEP have no SR, there is no issue of further disbursement. But, as they have included the salary of NPO of WHO, there should be an arrangement for fund transfer.
- k) Challenges:** Malaria is now concentrated in the remote areas. Earliest identification and control sudden upsurges remains as challenge. Due to reduction of immunity system in line with the reduction of prevalence, upsurges can result deaths. Thus, continuation of required attention for the prevention and early care seeking behavior is a major challenge of current grant. Though, post has been created under the structure of DGHS, no entomologist is in place. Absence of such HR hampers the entomological surveillance which is vital for elimination. Moreover, implementation of zero reporting from malaria free zone is still to be started. Elimination activities requires resources which is to be financed by the government of Bangladesh.

Recommendations:

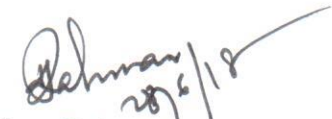
Based on the observation and discussion, the oversight team recommended the followings for the improvement of program implementation:

PR-HIV: Save The Children Bangladesh

1. PR may look for other funding sources to enhance coverage of key population to support effective coverage for prevention and control of HIV prevalence.
2. PR may aim community strengthening for Female Sex Workers e.g. ensuring their capacity building for livelihood targeting sustainability of achievements and rehabilitation
3. PWID focused activities should include the counseling package for faster withdrawal of drugs which is included in recommendations of In-depth Review conducted by external consultants.
4. HIV PRs should take some initiatives to advocate to commence the KP interventions by ASP according to HPNSP 2017-2022 to exaggerated the Government Expenditure from Operational Plan as committed by the government during funding request and to increase coverage of KAP under preventive services.
5. HIV PRs should update, approve and circulate national SOP and other program materials (IEC/SBCC) for the different interventions for prevention of HIV/AIDS (FSW, PWID, MSM Hijra etc.) through Technical Committee (Formerly known TWG) for HIV/AIDS and ASP.
6. HIV PRs should initiate dialogue to conduct next Sero Surveillance for HIV AIDS by the ASP as soon as possible. UNAIDS can coordinate this initiative as UN agency.
7. PR will send fact sheet on the PWID program challenges due to anti-drug drive to UNAIDS at their earliest convenience for further sharing with Oversight Committee
8. UNAIDS Bangladesh would sent a letter to Hon'ble Minister, MOHFW & Chair BCCM with CC to Secretary, HSD and other Officials of MOHFW with request to take initiative to minimize challenges in PWID program implementations for Anti-Drug Drive.

PR-Malaria: National Malaria Elimination Program (NMEP)

1. PR may concentrate more resources to eliminate malaria with geographical target (e.g. sub-districts) starting from north and move to south.
2. Recruitment of key staff (Finance Consultant, SMO and NPO-WHO) should be done within earliest possible time.
3. NMEP should take necessary steps to replenish position of entomologist as necessary and recruit staff under DGHS to strengthening entomological activities
4. Regional collaboration should be improved to retain the benefit of control and elimination of malaria.

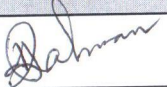


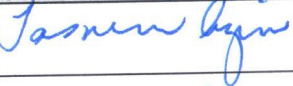
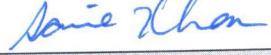


Md. Habibur Rahman Khan
Additional Secretary (PH&WH),
Health Services Division, MOHFW
and
Chair, BCCM Oversight Committee

Bangladesh Country Coordinating Mechanism

Attendance sheet for Oversight Visit
PR HIV - Save The Children Bangladesh

Date: 04 June 2018

No	Salutation	NAME	Organisation	Title (Designation)	Phone	Email	Constituency	Membership Status	Signature
Chair & Vice Chair									
1	Mr.	Md. Habibur Rahman Khan	MOH&FW	Addl. Secratry (PH&WH)	+8801821716062	hbr02@yahoo.com	GOV	Chair of the OC	
2	Mr.	Prodip Ranjan Chakrabortay	MOHA	Additional Secretary	+8801715055491	prc5287@yahoo.com	GOV	Vice Chair of OC	
3	Prof.	Dr. Mahmudur Rahman, PhD	MOH&FW	Former Director, IEDCR	+8801711595139	mrahman57@hotmail.com	Academia	Vice Chair of OC	
Disease Specialist- Malaria									
4	Prof.	Dr. M. A. Faiz	Former Director General, DGHS	Malaria Expert	+880171300 8858	drmafaiz@gmail.com	Academia	Member	
5	Prof.	Dr. Meerjady Sabrina Flora	MOH&FW	Director, IEDCR	+8801713083893	meerflora@yahoo.com	GOV	Member	
Disease Specialist- TB									
6	Prof.	Dr. Asif Mujtaba Mahmud	IEDCR	TB Expert	+8801819238333	asifmahmud60@gmail.com	Private	Member	
7	Dr.	Iftexhar Rashid	USAID	Health System Strenthening		irashid@usaid.gov	ML/BL	Member	
Disease Specialist- HIV									
8	Dr.	Tasnim Azim	Former Director, Center for HIV/AIDS, icddr.b	HIV Expert	+8801713090403	azim.tasnim@gmail.com	Academia	Member	
9	Dr.	Saima Khan	UNAIDS	HIV Expert	+8801730057832	khans@unaids.org	ML/BL	Member	
Specialist-Finance									
10	Dr.	A. E. Md. Muhiuddin Osmani	MOH&FW	Jt Chief, Planning	+8801817117703	osmani_mu@yahoo.com , muhiuddin.osmani@gmail.com	GOV	Member	
11	Mr.	Milon Kanti Datta	BHBCOP	Member Secretary	+8801727346990	milon_kanti_datta@gmail.com	FBO	Alternate	
Program Management Specialist									
12	Mr.	Md. Motaher Hossen	MOH&FW	Dep: Secretary	+8801779212099	motaher6679@gmail.com	GOV	Member	
13	Ms.	Gabrielle Mathieu	GAC	First Secretary	+8801713013199	gabrielle.mathieu@international.gc.ca	BL	Member	
14	Mr.	Kamrul Hasan Kenedy	Renata Limited	Head of Inst. Buss & Health Care product	+8801817049448	kenedy@renata-ltd.com	PS	Member	

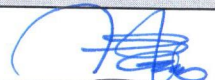



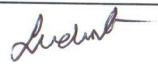
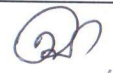
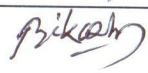
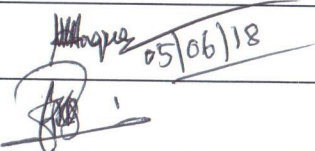


Bangladesh Country Coordinating Mechanism

Attendance sheet for Oversight Visit

PR Malaria - National Malaria Elimination Program

Date: 05 June 2018

No	Salutation	NAME	Organisation	Title (Designation)	Phone	Email	Signature
1	Mr.	Md. Habibur Rahman Khan	MOH&FW	Addl. Secratry (PH&WH)	+8801821716062	hbr02@yahoo.com	
2	Prof.	Dr. Mahmudur Rahman, PhD	MOH&FW	Former Director, IEDCR	+8801711595139	mrahman57@hotmail.com	
3	Prof.	Dr. M. A. Faiz	Former Director General, DGHS	Malaria Expert	+880171300 8858	drmafaiz@gmail.com	
4	Dr.	Tasnim Azim	Independent	HIV Expert	+8801713090403	azim.tasnim@gmail.com	
5	Dr.	A. Abed Mannan Bangali	Independent	Malaria Expert	+8801714165234	ambangali@yahoo.com	
6	Dr.	Saima Khan	UNAIDS	HIV Expert	+8801730057832	khans@unaids.org	
7	Mr.	Milon Kanti Datta	BHBCOP	Member Secretary	+8801727346990	milon_kanti_datta@gmail.com	
8	Mr.	Md. Motaher Hossen	MOH&FW	Dep: Secretary	+8801779212099	motaher6679@gmail.com	
9	Mr.	Zahedul Islam	MSH	Procurement Specialist	+8801713238655	zaislam@msh.org	
BCCM Secretariat							
10	Mr.	Manaj Kumar Biswas	BCCM Secretariat	BCCM Coordinator	+8801718171958	bccmcoordinator@gmail.com	
11	Mr.	Mohammad Harun-Or-Rasid	BCCM Secretariat	Deputy oordinator	+8801817524001	dc.bccm@gmail.com	
PRs							
12	Prof	Dr. Sanya Tahmina	NMCP	Director CDC & LD NMCP	+8801819454279, +8801914198680	directordcbd@gmail.com sanyatahmine@gmail.com	
13	Dr.	M M Aktaruzzaman	NMCP	DPM- Malaria	+8801711302584	mmaktaruzzaman93@gmail.com	
14	Mr.	Anjan Kumar Shaha	NMEP	MIS Expert	+8801714092541	anjanksaha@gmail.com directormbdc@gmail.com	

No	Salutation	NAME	Organisation	Title (Designation)	Phone	Email	Signature
Others							
15	Mr.	Alamgir Hossain	NMEP	Accounts officer	01731823676	alamgirhossain86@yahoo.com	
16	Ms.	Shaheen Akhter	NMEP	Training Exprt	01733067555	shaheenakhter2004@yahoo.com	
17	Mr.	Rashiduzzaman Suhon	NMEP	M-0	01740-566827	rashiduzzaman24@gmail.com	
18	Mr.	Md. Sique Reza	NMEP	Epidemiologist	0174375 2408	mdusofiq@gmail.com	
19	Mr.	Sudipta Chakma	NMEP	Procurement Coordinator	01729323038	sudiptachakma01@yahoo.com	
20	Mr.	Dr. Abu Nayeem Mohammad Sorel	NMEP	Evaluator, MIPD DHHS.	01713009597	nayeemdr@yahoo.com	
21	Mr.	Bikash Sultana	NMEP	O/A,	01913099 451	bikash-sultana12@yahoo.com	
22	Mr.	Arifanul Haque Bhuiyan	NMEP	Administrative Officer	0172620- 3385	arifan.nmepdghs@gmail.com	 05/06/18
23	Mr.	Jaker Hossain	NMEP	MIS/IT Asstnt	01771117770	JAKERIT1@YAHOO.COM	
24	Mr.	Abdusamad Haque	NMEP	Procurement Assistant	01713-931312	mdabdusamadhaque019@gmail.com	
25							
26							
27							
28							
29							
30							